

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

REO L. COVINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

JON F. LITSCHER, ET AL.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Case No. 16-cv-217-wmc

As directed by this court's April 18, 2016, order, plaintiff Reo L. Covington has submitted a certified inmate trust fund account statement for the six month period preceding the complaint and a motion to proceed without prepayment of the filing fee. Accordingly, the court must determine whether plaintiff qualifies for indigent status and, if so, calculate an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case.

Even when an inmate litigant qualifies for indigent status, the litigant must pay a portion of the fee returned by the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Using information for the relevant time period from plaintiff's trust fund account statement, I calculate plaintiff's initial partial filing fee to be \$17.27. For this case to proceed, plaintiff must submit this amount on or before June 1, 2016.

If plaintiff does not have enough money to make the initial partial payment from plaintiff's regular account, plaintiff should arrange with prison authorities to pay the remainder from plaintiff's release account.

Plaintiff also filed a cover letter, dkt. 4-1, along with his motion to proceed without prepayment of the filing fee, in which he requests the court to stay and hold in abeyance the screening of his complaint so that he may file a motion to amend the complaint. However,

on May 13, 2016, the court received plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint, therefore, I will deny as moot plaintiff's request to stay and hold in abeyance the screening of his complaint.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that,

1. Plaintiff Reo L. Covington is assessed \$17.27 as an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case. Plaintiff is to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$17.27 or advise the court in writing why plaintiff is not able to submit the assessed amount on or before June 1, 2016.

2. If, by June 1, 2016, plaintiff fails to make the initial partial payment or show cause for failure to do so, plaintiff will be held to have withdrawn this action voluntarily and the case will be closed without prejudice to plaintiff filing this case at a later date.

3. Plaintiff's request to stay and hold abeyance the screening process so that he may file a motion to amend the complaint is DENIED as moot.

4. No further action will be taken in this case until the clerk's office receives plaintiff's initial partial filing fee as directed above and the court has screened the complaint as required by the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. Once the screening process is complete, a separate order will issue.

Entered this 17th day of May, 2016.

BY THE COURT:

/s/
PETER OPPENEER
Magistrate Judge